

***Ipomoea egregia* nom. nov.**

I. cuneifolia A. Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. **19**: 90. 1883. Not Meissn. 1867.

Little need be added to the original description, except to note that it is one of a group of slender plants with small perennial tuberous roots and annual stems, slender funnellform corollas and globose, 4-valved capsules, to which belong such species as *Ipomoea Lemmoni* A. Gray, *I. leptosiphon* S. Wats., *I. muricata* Cav. (*I. capillacea* G. Don), *I. madrensis* S. Wats., and *I. leonensis* Robinson. The type of *I. cuneifolia* A. Gray, and therefore of *I. egregia*, was collected at Tanner's Canon, near Fort Huachuca in the Huachuca Mountains of southeastern Arizona by J. G. Lemmon, Sept., 1882 (*no.* 2837). Type in the Gray Herbarium, duplicate in the National Herbarium. HOMER D. HOUSE.

CLEMSON COLLEGE, S. C.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

APRIL 25, 1906.

The Club met at 3:30 P. M. in the Museum Building of the New York Botanical Garden. President Rusby was in the chair and there was an attendance of sixteen.

Professor Richards, chairman of the committee to arrange for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the commencement of work in the development of the New York Botanical Garden, presented a report.

Notice of the coming Botanical Symposium to be held from July 2 to 9, 1906, at Mountain Lodge, Little Moose Lake, Old Forge, N. Y., was read.

The following communication from the secretary of the Council of the Scientific Alliance to the secretary of the Club was read:

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN,
BRONX PARK, April 14, 1906.

Dear Sir:

I take pleasure in stating that the proposition of effecting a closer relationship of the societies composing the Scientific Alli-

ance of New York with the New York Academy of Sciences, considered at a meeting of the Council of the Alliance held April 11, 1906, based on the plan outlined in my letter to you of February 8, 1906, was unanimously adopted by the Council, delegates from all the societies being present, as follows :

In order to enforce the further unification of scientific organization and the development of science in the City of New York, the following arrangements are proposed, made possible by the present concentration of interest in natural science at the American Museum of Natural History, and the increased resources of the New York Academy of Sciences.

1. Societies organized for the study of any branch of science may become affiliated with the New York Academy of Sciences, without surrendering their own name, or losing their identity or autonomy, by consent of the Council of the Academy.

2. Members of the affiliated societies may become members of the Academy by paying the Academy's annual fee, but as members of the affiliated societies they shall be associate members of the Academy, with the rights and privileges of such associate members, except the receipt of its publications, without paying an additional fee.

3. In order to obtain the right to vote or to hold office in any of the associate societies thus affiliated, or to receive their publications, members of the Academy must pay annual dues to such society as well as those of the Academy, but all other privileges of membership would be included in the Academy's annual dues.

4. The New York Academy of Sciences, to encourage the work of societies thus affiliated with it by furnishing means for paying distinguished lecturers, by awarding grants to aid scientific investigation by their members, by providing facilities for their meetings at the present place of the Academy, or in other ways that may become practicable.

5. Each society thus affiliated with the New York Academy of Sciences to have the right to delegate one of its members to the Council of the Academy, this delegate being selected from such members of the society as are also members of the Academy, or being made so by his society's paying his dues while a delegate.

6. Societies thus affiliated may at their option indicate on their publications their affiliation with the New York Academy of Sciences.

7. Notices of all meetings or other functions of the Academy and of its sections and of the affiliated societies to be mailed

weekly by the secretary of the Academy to all members and associate members without charge to any affiliated society.

8. Any affiliated society may withdraw from this affiliation, by a majority vote of its members, at a meeting called for this purpose, to take effect three months after official notice of such action has been filed with the secretary of the New York Academy of Sciences.

9. Such an affiliation would render the Council of the Scientific Alliance an unnecessary organization, and it might be merged in the Council of the New York Academy of Sciences, under existing laws.

Slight changes in the wording of the proposition of February 8 were made, as you will see by comparison with my letter of that date, in order to meet points brought up in the discussion, and an additional paragraph was inserted, providing for the withdrawal of societies (paragraph 9).

I was instructed by the Council to transmit the plan thus unanimously approved to the secretaries of the several societies, and to recommend its adoption by them, and also to request that action be taken by the societies and notification of such action be sent to me before the third Thursday in May, the date of the annual meeting of the Council, so that the plan, if adopted, may be carried into effect on or before October 1, 1906.

I would say in this connection that I have submitted the general features of this plan to a large number of persons interested in the scientific development of the city, not delegates to the Scientific Alliance Council, and find it very cordially received.

Yours very truly,

N. L. BRITTON,
Secretary of the Council.

A motion to adopt the report was made and seconded, and Dr. Britton further explained the plan and its advantages. The motion to adopt was unanimously carried.

Mr. H. A. Gleason presented a paper, illustrated by many photographs, on "Some Phytogeographical Features of the Prairies."

An eastern extension of the great western prairies reaches across Iowa into Illinois and Indiana and portions of the adjoining states. Its flora is characterized by large numbers of western plants, although a majority of the species are of the eastern distribution and constitute a derived element of the

flora. The origin of the prairies has been referred to the character of the soil, the distribution and amount of rainfall, the direction of the prevailing winds, the grazing of bison and to forest fires. Each of these has probably had some influence in accelerating or retarding the invasion of the prairie or forest after the retreat of the continental ice-sheet, but the most important factor of all is historical rather than physical in nature. At the close of the glacial period the territory since occupied by prairies was opened first to invasion from the southwest, a region of climatic prairies, and subsequently to invasion from the climatic forests of the southeast. The two floras, on meeting, adjusted themselves to each other and to the physical factors of the environment, so that the forests occupied the bluffs and valleys along the streams, and the prairies the high lands between them. The climate and soil were adapted to the growth of the forest, so that, until extensive cultivation was begun, the prairie was gradually being displaced.

A comparatively restricted area along the Illinois River is occupied by sand deposits covered with a vegetation essentially similar to that of the sand-hill region of Nebraska, and entirely different from that of the dunes at the head of Lake Michigan.

After an interesting discussion of Mr. Gleason's paper, Dr. Rusby exhibited various plants used as food by the Indians. Among these were young shoots of the cat-tail, specimens of bitter-root used by the Indians of the northwest, and kouse—which consists of several species of *Lomatium* (*L. Canbyi*, and *L. Kous*) and is an important article of Indian diet. Dr. Rusby spoke also of the use by the Indians of the young buds of the beech tree, which are edible, when cooked, at any date after the first of January.

Dr. N. L. Britton exhibited fruits of the palm *Acrocomia media* Cook, recently collected by him in Porto Rico, and remarked on the relationships and distribution of this species, referring to the fine specimen of the plant growing in the palm collections of the Garden, brought by Mr. Percy Wilson from that island several years ago. He stated that his observations on this tree showed that the trunk does not invariably bulge above the base, as

thought by Mr. Cook at the time he described the species (Bull. Torrey Club, 28: 566), a small proportion of the trees being quite columnar from the base up. He further reported that the *Acrocomia* of St. Kitts, collected by Mr. Cowell and himself in 1901, is identical with the Porto Rico species, and that it also occurs on the French Antilles, as illustrated by specimens received from Père Duss. The tree is altogether different from the spindle-shaped *Acrocomia fusiformis* of Cuba, and seems to be more closely related to the Jamaican *A. aculeata*.

The Club adjourned at 5:15 o'clock.

C. STUART GAGER,
Secretary.

FIELD MEETINGS OF THE CLUB

In a circular recently distributed to members, the Torrey Botanical Club announces an arrangement of the field meetings for the current year so that a part of them will constitute a systematic out-of-door course in forestry. At the regular meeting of the Club, held on Tuesday, May 8, Dr. Grace E. Cooley presented the general subject of forestry in an illustrated lecture. The outlines for the field excursions to be made on Saturday afternoons were prepared by Dr. Cooley in accordance with suggestions made in the lecture. Preceding the field observations, each guide gives a brief presentation of his topic, after which, illustrations of the principles presented are sought in the forest. Six out of ten meetings scheduled have been held this spring. The remainder will be held in the early autumn.

The subject of the first lesson, April 28, was "Characteristics of Trees," with Dr. C. S. Gager as instructor and guide. The prefatory talk was given at the museum building of the New York Botanical Garden, and the field studies were made on the Garden plantations. The individual tree was studied as the unit of the forest. Among the topics considered were: The parts of a tree and their physiological functions; normal shape of stem and crown in forest and in open field, with causes; the relation and development of buds, and their homology and ecology;